

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UR

SUBJECT: EPA REQUEST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

1. PARA 3 CONTAINS QUESTIONS POSED BY EPA OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT RELATED TO RETURNABLE AND NONRETURNABLE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS USED IN THE USSR. THIS INFORMATION IS OF INTEREST BECAUSE OF EPA RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROPOSING A NATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND PROCEDURES TO PREVENT ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CAUSED BY DISCARDED CONTAINERS. THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS WILL ENABLE EPA TO SEE HOW A MAJOR COUNTRY WITH A LARGE BEVERAGE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM COPE WITH THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM USING RETURNABLE CONTAINERS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY.

2. DEPARTMENT SUGGESTS RESPONSE BE COORDINATED BETWEEN ECONOMIC AND SCIENCE SECTIONS. WOULD APPRECIATE RESPONSE BY APRIL 30; IF AVAILABLE SOONER, WOULD BE HELPFUL.

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3. FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REQUESTED:

A. WHAT ARE THE MARKET SHARES OF RETURNABLE AND NON-RETURNABLE BOTTLES, AND OF STEEL, ALUMINUM AND BIMETAL CANS?

B. WHAT ARE THE TOTAL QUANTITIES SOLD OF EACH CONTAINER TYPE?

C. WHAT PERCENTAGES OF CONTAINERS ARE SOLD FOR CONSUMPTION "ON-PREMISES" (E.G.; RESTAURANTS) VS. "OFF-PREMISES" (E.G.; FOR HOME USE)?

D. IF DEPOSIT SYSTEMS ARE IN USE, (A) WHAT ARE THE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE VALUE OF THE FILLED BOTTLE/CAN AND THE DEPOSIT, (B) DOES THE DEPOSIT VARY WITH THE SIZE OF THE BOTTLE, AND (C) WHAT IS THE RETURN RATE?

E. WHAT ARE THE PERCENTAGES OF BEVERAGE CONTAINERS IN LITTER, AND IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM?

F. DATA ON THE RELATIVE COSTS OF VARIOUS CONTAINERS TO PERMIT COMPARISON WITH THE U.S. EXPERIENCE.

G. FOR EACH OF THE ABOVE, TREND DATA FOR THE LAST 15 YEARS, IF AVAILABLE.

H. ARE BEVERAGE CONTAINERS STANDARDIZED? IF SO, WHAT ARE THE STANDARDS? (I.E.; VOLUME, EXTERNAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, LININGS, ETC.)

I. HAS THE INTRODUCTION OF U.S. SOFT DRINKS (PEPSI-COLA) LED TO ANY MODIFICATIONS IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS? KISSINGER

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